Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The citizens of South Dakota stand firmly committed to quality after school programs and opportunities; and,

Whereas, After school programs provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills; and provide support for working families by making sure their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends; and,

Whereas, After school programs build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families, and adults. The after school program engages families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and,

Whereas, South Dakota has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality after school programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and,

Whereas, *Lights On Afterschool,* a national celebration of after school programs promote the critical importance of quality after school programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities; and,

Whereas, More than 72 percent of children in South Dakota have all available parents working outside the home, and nearly 49,000 children are responsible for taking care of themselves after school across the state:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 8, 2011, as

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY

in South Dakota, and I urge parents, elected officials, and community members to recognize the importance of after school programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixteenth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason Gant

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State